This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus for collecting user information comprising:

speech recognizing means for recognizing speech of a user;

dialog sentence creating means for creating a dialog sentence to exchange a dialog with the user based on a result of the speech recognition performed by said speech recognizing means; and

collecting means for collecting the user information based on the speech recognition result, wherein said collecting means counts a number of times the same topic is included in the speech of the user based on the speech recognition result and collects the user information based on the counted number.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, further comprising storage means for storing the user information.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said dialog sentence creating means outputs the dialog sentence in the form of a text or synthesized sounds.

Claim 15 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on an appearance frequency of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 16 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on a broader form of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 17 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the user information is information indicating interests or tastes of the user.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for collecting user information comprising:

speech recognizing means for recognizing speech of a user;

dialog sentence creating means for creating a dialog sentence to exchange a dialog with the user based on a result of the speech recognition performed by said speech recognizing means; and

collecting means for collecting the user information based on the speech recognition result, wherein said collecting means tracks a time interval when the same topic is included in the speech of the user for a designated length of time based on the speech recognition result and collects the user information based on the time interval the designated length of time.

Claim 19 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising storage means for storing the user information.

Claim 20 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said dialog sentence creating means outputs the dialog sentence in the form of a text or synthesized sounds.

Claim 21 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on an appearance frequency of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 22 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on a broader form of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 23 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the user information is information indicating interests or tastes of the user.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An information processing apparatus for collecting user information comprising:

speech recognizing means for recognizing speech of a user;

a speech threshold including a designated number of appearances of a topic in the speech of a user;

dialog sentence creating means for creating a dialog sentence to exchange a dialog with the user based on a result of the speech recognition performed by said speech recognizing means; and

collecting means for collecting the user information based on the speech recognition result, wherein said collecting means counts the number of appearances that the same topic is included in the speech of the user based on the speech recognition result, determines whether the counted number of appearances of said topic is equal to or greater than said speech threshold and collects the user information based on the counted number when the counted number of appearances of said topic is equal to or greater than said speech threshold.

Claim 25 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, further comprising storage means for storing the user information.

Claim 26 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said dialog sentence creating means outputs the dialog sentence in the form of a text or synthesized sounds.

Claim 27 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on an appearance frequency of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 28 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said collecting means collects the user information based on a broader form of a word contained in the speech recognition result.

Claim 29 (previously presented): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the user information is information indicating interests or tastes of the user.